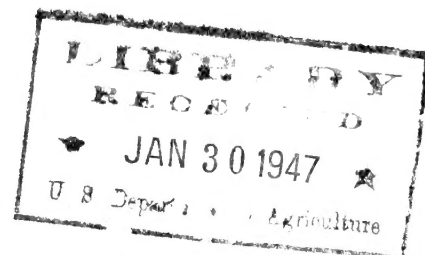


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Arizona

Bermuda Grass Seed

How to Make Its Use Profitable to You!

WRITE TO
BERMUDA INDUSTRY

P. O. Box 61
YUMA, ARIZONA

ADVANCE SEED COMPANY

P. O. Box 1471
Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona Bermuda Grass SEED



How to Make Its Use Profitable to You!

IN THE Southern half of the United States Bermuda Grass has been the principal lawn grass for many years. Bermuda Grass has long been used for hay and pastures. Growing interest in livestock production and necessity for soil conservation by the prevention of erosion has greatly increased its potential acreage. Pasture specialists agree that Bermuda Grass is the best upland pasture grass for the lower South. It is unequalled for preventing soil erosion. It is now being planted on eroding lands no longer suited for cultivation but which may be brought back with grass and converted into permanent pastures.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

Bermuda will grow on any well-drained soil. It will tolerate some flooding for a week or so and survive. When the water is drained off it recovers rapidly and will produce a good pasture or hay. Bermuda will live on soil of low fertility, but like any plant, will do better when sufficient plant food is available or added by commercial fertilizer. Growth results in direct proportion to available nitrogen.

PLANTING METHODS

Prepare the seed bed by double disking or heavy renovation. Level it down, preferably with disc or section harrows. Broadcast Bermuda Grass Seed at the rate of 5 to 7 pounds per acre of unhulled seed. This is a small amount of seed and Bermuda seed is light in weight. It is, therefore, advisable that this be mixed with about equal parts or more of cotton seed meal or soil to increase the bulk. To get good distribution it is preferable that half the seed be broadcast in one direction and the other one-half in the opposite direction. After seeding is completed, cover the seed with a light harrow or even better a brush drag. The seed is very small and cannot stand deep covering. If available, use a cultipacker to press the soil tightly around the seed.

TIME OF PLANTING

We agree with the minority of agricultural specialists and say that the best time to plant Bermuda Grass is in the months of December, January, February or March, when the ground is cold. Let nature then take its course and it will germinate when the temperature of the soil warms up to above 60-65 degrees in the spring of the year. Unhulled Bermuda will not spoil or germinate in cold soil and will not sprout until the ground starts to warm up. During summer, without irrigation or other artificial watering, it is not usually possible in most areas to get the necessary six weeks of continuous moisture required for germination and necessary rooting to safely establish Bermuda. To be safe it should be up and growing a month or more before winter freezes occur.

FERTILIZING

When Bermuda Grass is well established, it is a very tough and rugged plant. Pasture and hay production can be increased by renovation. Aerating the surface soil increases bacterial action that makes more mineral plant foods available. The application of 100 to 200 pounds of complete fertilizer high in nitrogen increases growth and also increases the value of the grass for grazing or hay. On heavy soils fertilizer may be applied during the winter after Bermuda Grass is dormant or on light sandy soils it should be applied in the early spring when growth has started. The best permanent pasture in the South is a well established Bermuda sod, renovated about the second year and with winter clovers added for winter grazing. This combination of Bermuda Grass for summer and clovers for winter will give grazing almost twelve months of the year. A good Bermuda sod established before clovers are planted will prevent the young clover from being heaved out of the ground the first winter. Complete fertilizers applied to Bermuda will also promote the growth of clover during winter. These added minerals should be sup-

plemented with lime on soils that are deficient in calcium.

BERMUDA AS A FEED

In addition to supplying winter grazing, clover legumes gather nitrogen from the air during their growing period, thereby storing it up in the soil so that the Bermuda Grass is relished by all livestock and if kept grazed closely or clipped from time to time, they will continue to eat it throughout the year. On the richer soils Bermuda can be allowed to make extensive growth and cut for hay. Such hay is considered very desirable and similar to Timothy for horses and other livestock. Fertilized Bermuda that has had the proper mineral element provides a much more valuable feed than if cut from poorer soil.

SOIL EROSION

For many years Bermuda Grass has been used extensively for the prevention of river levee erosion. Athletic fields, Army Post drill grounds, road fills, cuts, road shoulders, ditches and right-of-ways have been put in Bermuda to prevent washing. In recent years the Soil Conservation Service has done extensive planting of Bermuda to prevent erosion of watersheds on farms. At the beginning of this war all Bermuda Grass seed was frozen to be used on airports, Army Camps, etc., which meant that it was recognized as being the best grass for that purpose in the South.

SEED SUPPLY

The Triple A recognized the value of Bermuda Grass first in their soil conservation program and also for planting to produce both pasture and hay as a feed in our much enlarged livestock program. In many states farmers could secure Bermuda Grass seed on purchase orders for use in establishing pastures and hay fields. Cost of planting Bermuda Grass seed is very reasonable because it only takes from 5 to 7 pounds per acre, while if one undertakes to sprig or sod, the expense is so heavy that only limited acreages could be put in.

**Write the Bermuda Industry, Box 61, Yuma, Arizona,
for additional information**

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